



# Arbitrator News

Monthly newsletter for the Juvenile Arbitration Program of  
Aiken, Bamberg and Barnwell Counties — May 2021

Bill Weeks, Solicitor  
Serena McDaniel, Assistant Solicitor  
Nina Spinelli, Director

Newsletter Date: May 2021

## Did You Know:

Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) can have a profound impact on the lives of parents and their children.

- 8.7 million youth aged 17 or younger (1 in 8) live with a parent who has a SUD.
- According to 2014 NSDUH data, approximately 20.2 million adults aged 18 or older had a past year SUD, including 16.3 million with an alcohol use disorder and 6.2 million with an illicit drug use disorder; however, only 7.6 percent of adults with past year SUD received substance use treatment in the past year.

For additional  
information visit:  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

Happy May Arbitrators,

The Second Circuit Juvenile Arbitration Program enjoyed a busy month in April. From Community Clean-Up Days to the Child Abuse Prevention Summit, we enjoyed the chance to make a positive impact in our community. On Saturday April 3, Arbitrators Herb Theiss and James Butler, Keep Aiken County Beautiful Director Kandace Cave, and, Juvenile Arbitration Director Nina Spinelli worked hard on cleaning up Highway 1.

Thank you to all of volunteers that make our program so successful.



## Child Abuse Prevention Summit



Thank you to everyone who attended our Child Abuse Prevention Summit at the Price Center.

April is designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

## Community Sanction

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

# ***TRAIN DAY***

National Train Day, an annual holiday celebrating the impact trains have had on the world, will be celebrated at the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum (406 Park Avenue SE).

Activities include live music, train rides, balloon and face paint artists, a photo booth, and concessions.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket to enjoy the live music. Admission is free and tickets for the train ride are \$1 per person (including children & adults).

***SATURDAY MAY 8TH FROM 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM***

## AIK 4 Teen Moms—Community Resource



# AIM 4 Teen Moms

Connect with other teen moms & get free resources

## *What is AIM for Teen Moms?*

- Moms ages 15-19, sign up for AIM for Teen Moms for **FREE** and get support with career goals, family planning, communication skills + more
- 6 individual sessions & 2 group sessions centered around your growth
- Offers virtual or in-person options
- Connections to new & existing resources in your area
- A supportive & positive environment



Scan to access  
pre-registration

## **Bonuses**

- Weekly giveaways
- Child care during in-person group meetings
- Food at in-person group meetings
- Free gift cards (with completed 6/8 sessions & pre/post surveys)
- Certificate of completion

Follow us to learn more or visit:  
[aikenyouthempowerment.org](http://aikenyouthempowerment.org)



Helping Hands, Inc



@helpinghandsinc\_aiken

The project described is supported by Grant Number 1TP1AH000216-01-00 from the HHS Office of Population Affairs. Contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Population Affairs.

To learn more or sign up, contact Tiiu Goode at 803-671-2456 (text or call) or 803-648-3456 ext. 105



## Start by Believing

EVAW is thrilled to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Start by Believing campaign!

In honor of this milestone, they are hosting a FREE event - **10 Years of Start by Believing: Communities Behind the Movement** on April 29th from 1:00—2:30 PM.

Over the past decade, more than 582 communities worldwide have adopted their own campaigns, and thousands of people have made the pledge to Start by Believing - committing to improve the response to sexual and domestic violence.

Visit [www.startbybelieving.org](http://www.startbybelieving.org)



## Juvenile Arbitration Program—By the Numbers

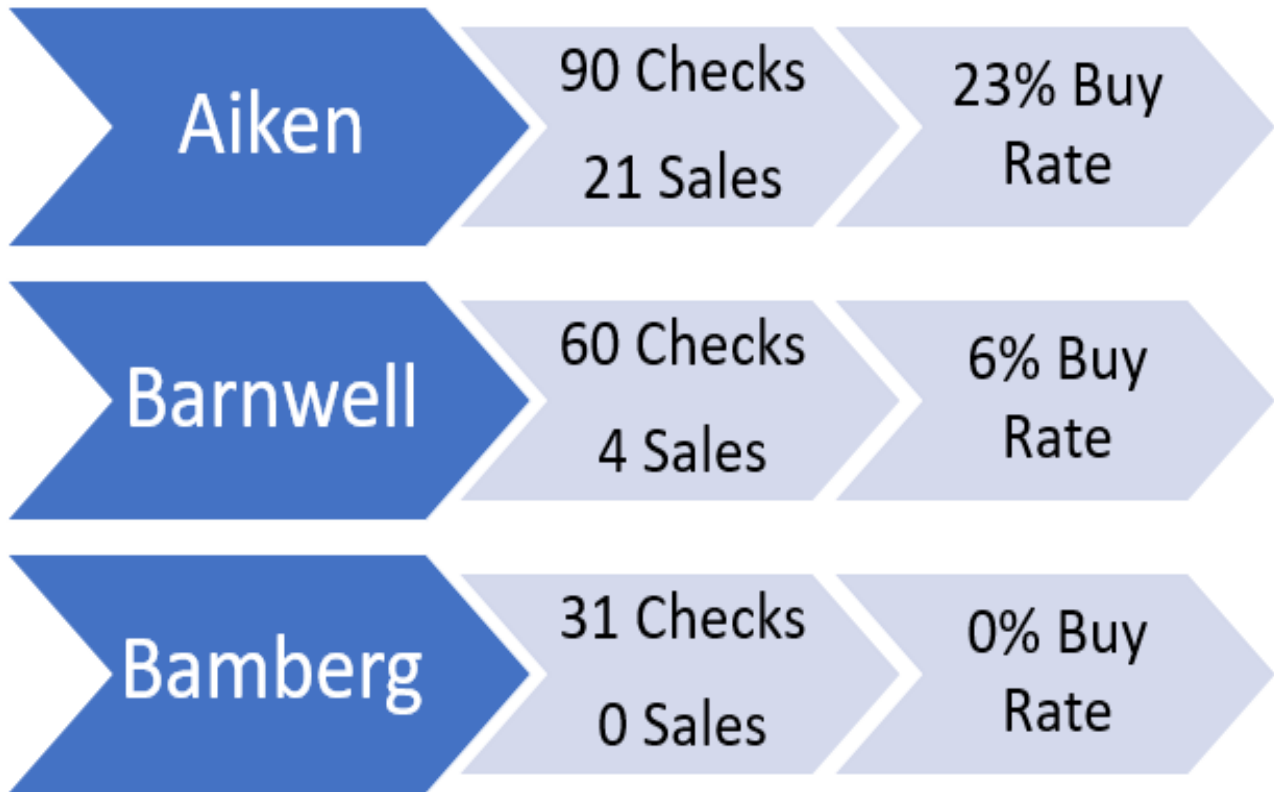


From January 1—March 31, **34 Juveniles** were referred to the Juvenile Arbitration Program.

Thanks to our volunteers, youth participated in multiple community service projects including the Impact of Incarceration Tour, obtaining library cards, attending Victim Impact Panels, providing restitution to victims, donating time and money to charities, and, attending Life Skills Classes.



## Alcohol Enforcement Team



What is the Alcohol Enforcement Team (AET)? With the help of team members, consisting of law enforcement agencies from the State, County, and Municipal levels along with Drug and Alcohol treatment facilities, our goal is to STOP underage drinking and the harmful affects it has on our young people and our communities. AET does this through Education, Training, and Enforcement.

Underage drinking is linked to more than **5,000 teen deaths** each year. These are from a combination of traffic fatalities, suicides, alcohol poisoning, and homicides. More than 190,000 teens visit E.R.s with alcohol related injuries annually.

AET starts with education. AET conducts dozens of speaking/training events each year. AET targets area schools and civic groups and discusses topics from binge drinking to drinking & driving to seat belt usage and road safety.

AET offers training for alcohol retailers to train their staff on the laws and how to properly check ID and conducts “sales checks” to learn about underage sales.

To learn more, please visit: [www.aet2ndcircuit.com/about-us](http://www.aet2ndcircuit.com/about-us)

## National Criminal Justice Training Center—Statistics

### Child Abuse in the United States

**4.38**  
million

children referred to child protective services, resulting in



**7.88**  
million

substantiated reports of child maltreatment, identifying

**656,000**

unique count



victims of child abuse and neglect

### Of these Victims



**3/4**



of the children were neglected



**17.5%**

were physically abused

**9.3%**



were sexually abused

## Youth Leadership Forum

July 25—30th is the South Carolina Youth Leadership Forum (SC YLF). The SC YLF is an opportunity for young adults with disabilities living in South Carolina to cultivate leadership skills and learn how to become an advocate in their community.

Selected delegates will spend four days learning about independent living and advocacy in a safe and supportive setting while building relationships with other young adults from around the state. Because of the ongoing COVID pandemic, YLF will be held online this year.

For more information and to apply, visit: [www.scylf.org](http://www.scylf.org)

You can apply for SC YLF if:

1. You are between 15 and 23 years old
2. You have a disability
3. You've shown leadership potential in the school and/or community
4. You live in South Carolina



## Food Share—Community Resource



### WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Many communities in South Carolina do not have access nor the structural or financial resources to eat healthy on a daily basis. Barriers include where people live, their racial and ethnic background, age, income, and whether reliable transportation exists.

### WHO WE REACH

FoodShare South Carolina currently operates seven distribution hubs to serve various communities in our state: **Columbia** and the Midlands, **Greenville**, **Spartanburg**, **Orangeburg**, **Bamberg**, **Lancaster** and **Chesterfield**, **Kershaw** and **Lee Counties**.

To date, these hubs have sold and distributed more than **80,000 Fresh Food Boxes** containing over **1.2 million pounds** of produce, with more than 60% of the boxes purchased by SNAP EBT. In 2019, FoodShare was recognized as an emerging evidenced-based intervention to improve food access by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and SNAP-ED program.



### POSITIONED FOR GROWTH

In 2020, FoodShare received a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield South Carolina to expand our program into 34 additional counties over the next five years by collaborating with organizations that will replicate FoodShare's program with a concentrated focus on diabetes prevention.



FoodShare South Carolina | [www.FoodShareSC.org](http://www.FoodShareSC.org) | [info@foodsharesc.org](mailto:info@foodsharesc.org)

*Last updated 10/28/20*



## Strengthening Families—Barnwell County

The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) serves families with children ages 6 to 11 through local partners in settings that include community centers, schools, and churches. SFP is designed to help families develop positive discipline practices, stay resilient in tough times, reduce conflict, improve parenting skills, and assist children with social skills, relationships, and school performance.

Participants complete a 14-session weekly program. The sessions, which always begin with a family meal, include parents and children meeting separately to work with group leaders before coming together for shared activities to finish.

Contact Marilyn Harris at Children's Place to register at (803) 641-4144.



### Did You Know:

According to data provided by the **South Carolina** Department of Education, 12,660 students experienced **homelessness** during the 2017–18 school year.

For more facts, visit <https://www.schomeless.org>

## Yoga at the Price Center



Tonya Avery with the Aiken Center and Nina Spinelli with Juvenile Arbitration had a great time leading the Teen Yoga Class at the Price Center on the afternoon of March 9.

Teens enjoyed the chance to practice yoga outside and learn postures and tools for anxiety and stress management.



## Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site



Have you visited Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site in Beech Island, SC?

Just one of several historic plantations South Carolina is known for, Redcliffe provides a setting for exploring the experiences of the enslaved, as well as the larger institution of slavery and reflects the historical experiences and impact of the families who lived and worked at the site. The extant slave quarters, mansion, and iconic lane of magnolia trees planted in 1861 highlight the plantation's rich and varied history. Redcliffe provides a great community service site for youth.





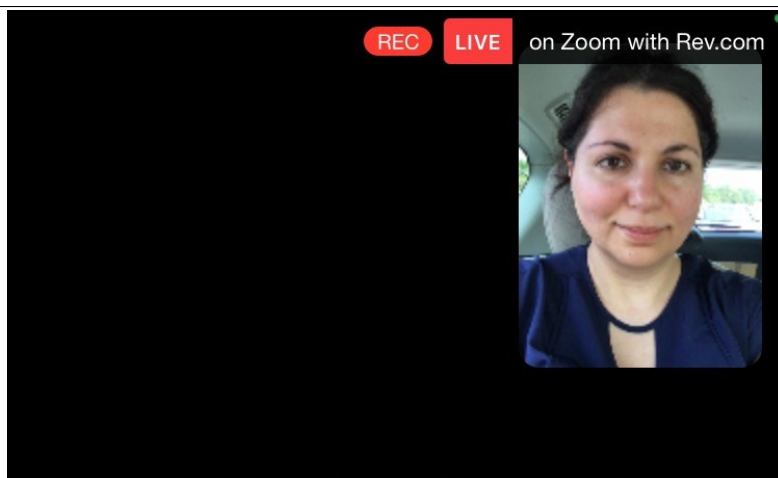
## Project READY

Racial equity work is most effective when individuals connect and collaborate with others.

Racial equity work can too often get “siloe” within individual communities, disciplines, or systems, resulting in duplicated efforts and often fractured understandings of connected issues.

Interested in learning more about Project READY and want to take the self-paced course online?

Visit their website at [www.ready.web.unc.edu](http://www.ready.web.unc.edu) to sign-up, review the modules and download the course guide.





**Online Sanction—Flowers and Bees**

# Flowers & Bees Online Program

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**SATURDAY MAY 15, 2021  
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM**

**INVITING ALL CHILDREN TO  
COME TO LEARN ABOUT  
FLOWERS AND HOW TO START A  
GARDEN**

**TO REGISTER, E-MAIL  
NSPINELLI@AIKENCOUNTYSC.GOV**



## Human Affairs Commission

In 1958, President Eisenhower proclaimed May 1 as Law Day to honor the role of law in the creation of the United States of America. Three years later, Congress followed suit by passing a joint resolution establishing May 1 as Law Day.

The American Bar Association defines Law Day as: “A national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process have contributed to the freedoms that all Americans share.”

South Carolina Human Affairs Law makes it illegal for an employer to discriminate on the basis of:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Religion
- Disability
- Sex (Including pregnancy, childbirth, and, related conditions)



# South Carolina Human Affairs Commission

Janie A. Davis, Commissioner

The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission offers a compliance division. The primary responsibilities of the compliance division are to receive, investigate and resolve complaints alleging unlawful discriminatory employment and housing practices filed against respondents in South Carolina on the basis of discrimination.

If you feel like you have experienced discrimination, contact the Human Affairs Commission for help. They can be reached at (800) 521-0725, Relay 711 or 803-737-7800. Visit the Commission online at <https://www.schac.sc.gov/>

## Sanction Opportunity



HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS

## *Teen Yoga*

Learn some basic moves to keep you healthy and stress free!

**THURSDAY JUNE 17, 2021  
10:00 A.M - 11:00 A.M.  
PRICE CENTER - 841 EDGEFIELD  
AVENUE, NW, AIKEN**

To register a child to participate, please e-mail  
[nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov)



## Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference



On April 16, Nina Spinelli presented *Implicit Bias in the Classroom: Understanding Its Role in Disproportionate Discipline* at the Southeastern School Behavior Conference. A key issue is reducing missed learning days to due suspension and expulsion. Instructional time is a key factor in learning outcomes, but many students are excluded from the classroom because of disciplinary actions. The impact of school discipline on youth is devastating and can be linked to reduced educational outcomes and increased risk of juvenile justice involvement.

## Community Sanction

### *CELEBRATION IN THE GARDENS*



*Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of  
The Friends of Hopelands and Rye Patch  
in Hopelands Gardens*

*Saturday, May 1, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

*Event Parking will be available at  
the Green Boundary (780 Whiskey Road)*

*Featured activities of the day include:  
Guided Tours along the Arboretum Trail and Labyrinth  
Educational Sessions*

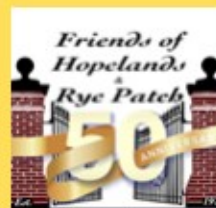
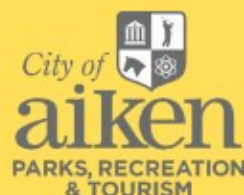
*Guests can also visit the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of  
Fame and participate in activities at the Doll House.*



#### **Children will Enjoy**

- Arts and crafts in the Bird and Butterfly Garden
- A nature table of garden wonders
- Face painting
- Working with artists on nature rubbings
- Story Time

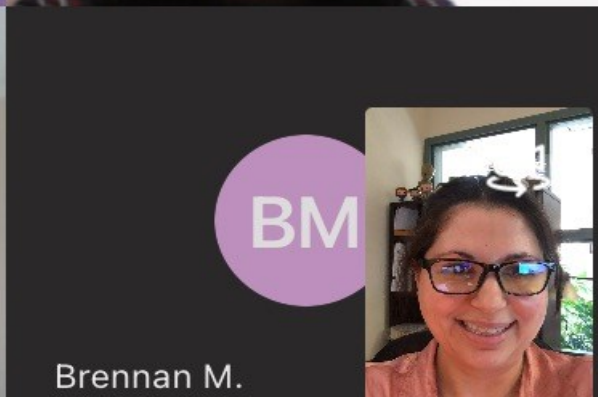
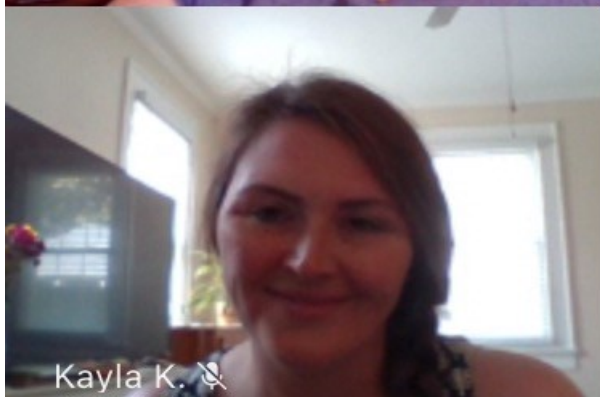
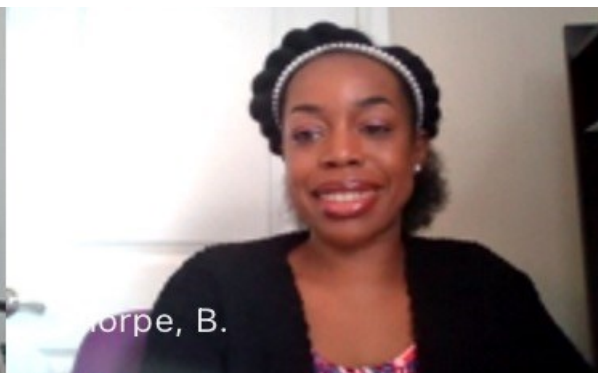
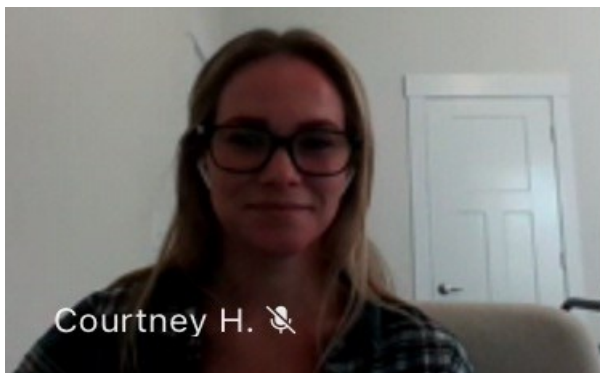
(803) 642-7631



*Free event*



## Eat Smart Move More Aiken





## Eat Smart Move More SC

Eat Smart Move More South Carolina works to reduce obesity by helping communities create healthy eating and active living options where we live, learn, work, pray, and play.

On March 25, 2021, Eat Smart Move More Aiken met to discuss upcoming goals and programs.

In 2020, Eat Smart Move More SC worked to increase access during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eat Smart Move More SC serves all populations and communities, especially those who are more vulnerable due to race, age, location, ability, and socioeconomic status.

For more information on Eat Smart Move More SC, visit: <https://eatsmart-movemoresc.org>

### How did we meet the immediate needs of those affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic?

MAR  
DEC

#### FOOD INSECURITY COALITION

Quickly assembled the Food Insecurity Coalition with **over 140 people** to discuss and develop hunger solutions. The coalition met weekly to meet the needs of struggling people and transitioned into monthly meetings.

#### COALITION REPRESENTATION

- Non-profit Organizations
- State Agencies
- County and Local Coalitions
- Food Distribution Channels
- Farmers Markets

MAR

#### COVID-19 WEB PAGE

Developed an **online resource hub for partners** addressing food insecurity and safety, which includes an interactive food distribution map.

**11,567**  
VISITORS FROM ACROSS  
THE US

#### TOP 5 LOCATIONS

- SOUTH CAROLINA
- OREGON
- NORTH CAROLINA
- VIRGINIA
- CALIFORNIA

MAY  
JUN

#### PANDEMIC MINI-GRANTS

Helped **40 communities** feed over **20,000 struggling people** with pandemic mini-grants totaling **\$46,000**.

#### FUNDING STRATEGY

Connect organizations serving the same community. Two Beaufort County Gullah communities were connected to help them leverage resources and increase the number of people they were able to feed.

MAY  
SEPT

#### CRISIS NETWORKING

Built relationships with **new partners and elected officials** as they worked to **help their constituents**.

OCT

#### CRISIS COACHING

**Connected** chapters, coalitions, and partners to **financial resources** for food distribution needs, such as fresh food, safety equipment, and other needs.

#### LENDING KNOWLEDGE & MUSCLE

- Helped communities secure grant funds for food distributions
- Volunteered at food distributions
- Connected partners and individuals to match non-financial needs.

OCT

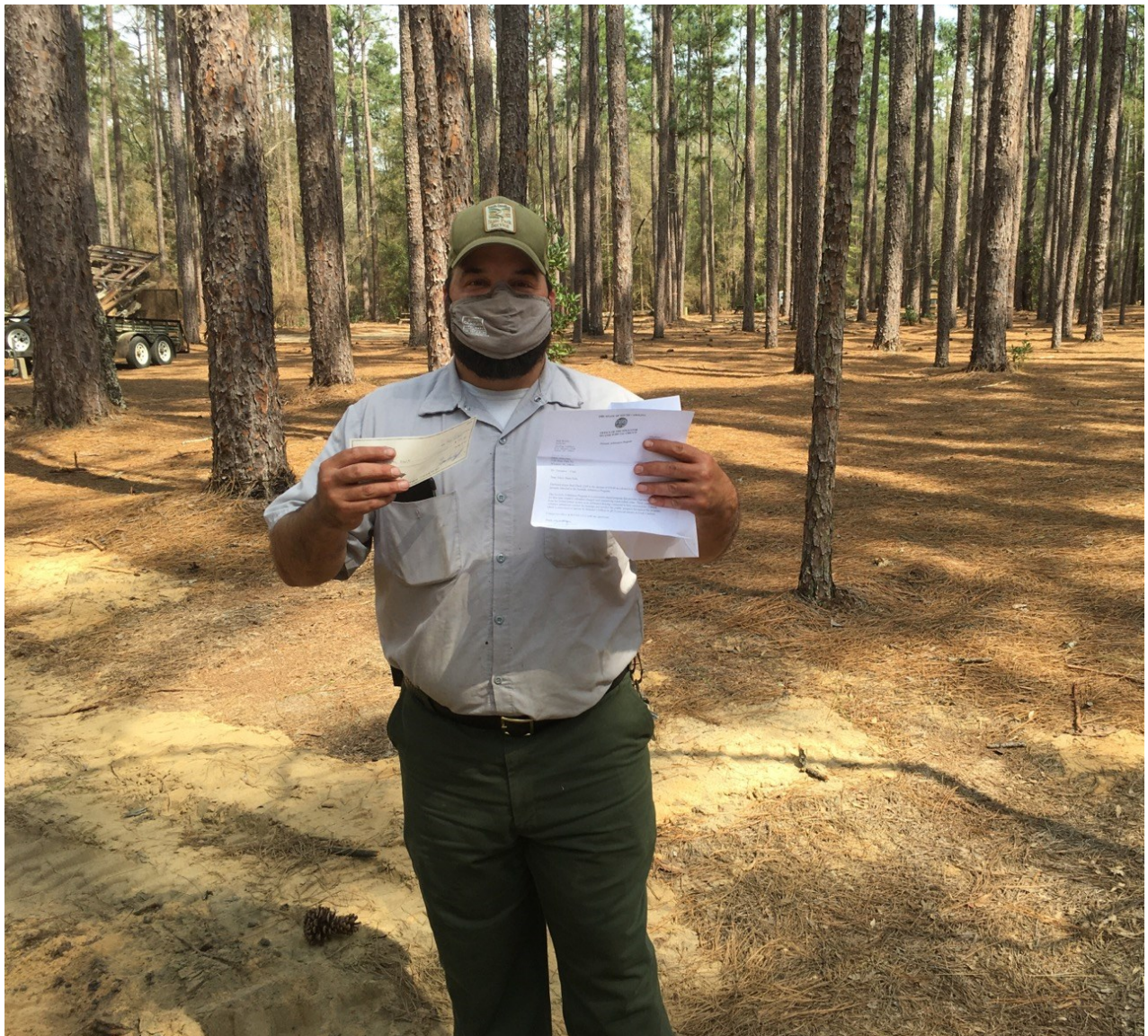
#### YOUTH SERVICES SUPPORT

Led a two-part webinar on *Re-Imagining Program Delivery to Students* and provided **resources** to **organizations working with youth**.

## Aiken State Park

Set along the South Edisto River, Aiken State Park is a haven for fishing, canoeing and kayaking. A scenic 1.7-mile canoe and kayak trail winds its way down the south fork of the Edisto River, attracting paddlers from across the region.

Aiken State Park has a history as notable as its natural beauty. During the Great Depression, the park was built by two Civilian Conservation Corps companies, one of which was an African-American detachment of the C.C.C. Their work has withstood the test of time and can still be seen in some of the remaining structures and interpretive signage. Youth in Juvenile Arbitration have been hard at work providing community service to Aiken State Park.



## Remote Sanction

WHY BE  
A  
BULLY?

Thursday  
June 24

1:30 - 3:00 PM

ONLINE SANCTION -  
ZOOM

Learn what bullying means, how  
it happens, and, how you can  
stop it! For teens ages 12-16.

TO REGISTER A YOUTH, PLEASE E-MAIL  
[NSPINELLI@AIKENCOUNTYSC.GOV](mailto:NSPINELLI@AIKENCOUNTYSC.GOV) OR CALL  
803-508-0023



## Human Trafficking Awareness Class

Emma Rush, Education Coordinator with the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, led the Human Trafficking and Internet Safety Awareness Class for our teens on April 8.

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States.

Human trafficking can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations.

Blue Campaign is a national public awareness campaign, designed to educate the public, law enforcement and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases.

To learn more about the Blue Campaign visit: [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

To report suspected human trafficking to Federal law enforcement call 866-347-2423.

Our next class for teens will be held in June 2021.



## COVID-19 Updates

# COVID-19 VACCINE: ID AND COSTS



### DO I NEED TO PROVE THAT I'M ELIGIBLE FOR A COVID-19 VACCINE?

- No. You won't need to prove that you are eligible. You don't need to show an ID or paperwork to prove your age, job, or medical condition.
- Be honest, don't skip line, and get vaccinated when it's your time.
- To learn more about who is eligible, call 1-866-365-8110 or visit [scdhec.gov/vaxfacts](https://scdhec.gov/vaxfacts).

### WHY IS A VACCINE PROVIDER ASKING FOR A HEALTH INSURANCE CARD?

- A provider may get reimbursed for giving you a vaccine. They need your card to seek payment. Your health insurance company or the federal government may pay a fee.
- **You won't pay any out-of-pocket costs for a COVID-19 vaccine.** You won't pay deductibles, co-insurance or co-payments.
- **You DON'T have to provide an insurance card to get a COVID-19 vaccine.**



### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ME TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE?

- **Nothing.** You won't pay deductibles, co-insurance or co-payments.
- You should not receive a bill.

### DO I NEED INSURANCE TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE?

- No. You don't need insurance.
- A provider can't deny you a vaccine if you don't have insurance.
- **The federal government is providing the vaccine free to all people living in the United States.**

CR-012943 3/21



THE COVID-19 **VACCINE**



## Clean-Up Day—Keep Aiken County Beautiful



## **Clean-Up Day—Keep Aiken County Beautiful**

On Saturday April 3, the Juvenile Arbitration Program was happy to participate with the Keep Aiken County Beautiful Community Clean-Up of Highway 1.

Thank you to Arbitrators James Butler and Herb Theiss for lending a helping hand.





## Cooking Matters





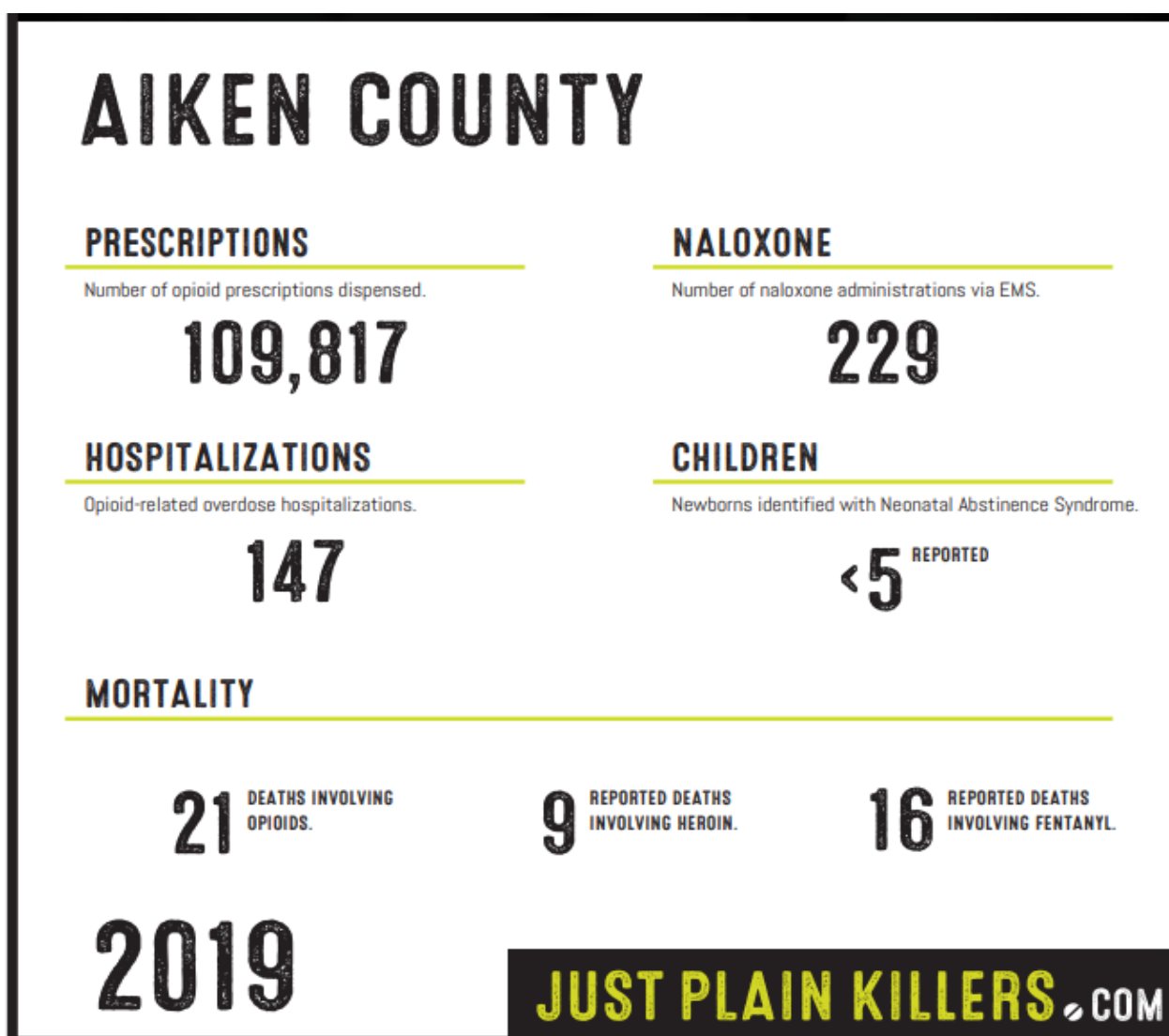
## Cooking Matters



Thank you to Arbitrators Elizabeth Coleman, Bonnie Anderson and Nancy Marks for their great help at the April 9 Cooking Matters Class held at the Price Center with Samantha Price of Clemson SNAP-ED.

## Opioid Emergency Response Team

In December 2017, Governor Henry McMaster declared the state's opioid crisis to be a public health emergency and established the state's Opioid Emergency Response Team, led by the S.C. Law Enforcement Division and the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services. Through this team, representatives of state and federal law enforcement agencies, state health and regulatory agencies, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders have combined their data on opioid use, misuse and addiction to help inform South Carolina's approach to the crisis.



AN INITIATIVE OF **South Carolina DAODAS**  
Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

Funded through grant #3H79TI081720-01S1 from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



## Community Resource—ACTS



*Helping Our Community  
for more than  
34 years!*

# Food Distributions

Residents are allowed to attend only **one** food distribution. This includes the Senior Food Distributions. A valid photo ID is required at all locations. If you need additional assistance, please contact ACTS of Aiken 803-642-5919.

### Community Food Distributions

Residents are allowed to **attend the food distribution in their area**. All ages are welcome to attend.

- **Oakwood-Windsor Food Distribution:**
  - Date: Second Friday of the Month
  - Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm or until food runs out
  - Location: Oakwood-Windsor Elementary School (3773 Charleston Highway, Aiken, SC 29801)
- **New Ellenton Community Food Distribution:**
  - Date: Friday, April 23, 2021
  - Time: 9:30 am - 11 am or until food runs out
  - Location: New Ellenton Community Center (212 Pine Hill Avenue, New Ellenton, SC 29809)
- **Ridge Spring Food Distribution:**
  - Date: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month
  - Time: 9:30 am - 11:00 am or until food runs out
  - Location: Ridge Spring Farmer's Market (906 W. Main Street, Ridge Spring, SC 29129)

When you arrive at the location, stay in your car and follow directions from volunteers. Do not exit your vehicle.

### Senior Food Distributions

Each Senior Food Distribution is on the **3rd Saturday of the Month from 8:00 until 9:30 am**.

- **Aiken:**
  - Location: ACTS (340 Park Avenue SW, Aiken, SC 29801)
- **Graniteville:**
  - Location: Gregg Park Civic Center (1001 A. Avenue, Graniteville, SC 29829)
- **Jackson:**
  - Location: 107 Charles Street, Jackson, SC 29831
- **Wagener:**
  - Location: Wagener United Methodist Church (153 Columbia Road, Wagener, SC 29164)

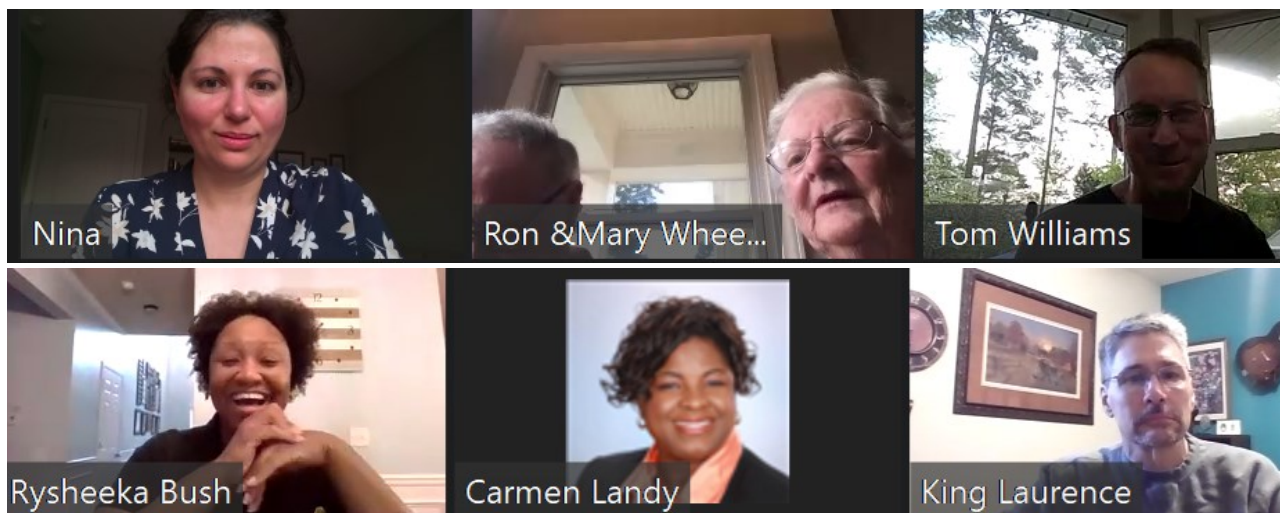
To qualify, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Be 60 years or older.
- Meet income eligibility requirements.
- Live in the service area of one of the food distribution sites.

When you arrive Saturday morning, stay in your car and follow directions from volunteers. Do not exit your vehicle.

**ACTS Food Pantry is open for all ages and available Monday-Friday from 11 am until 3 pm. Call ACTS of Aiken at 803-642-5919 for more information.**

## Sunrise Rotary



On April 8, Nina Spinelli enjoyed the opportunity to speak with the Sunrise Rotary about Eat Smart Move More Aiken.

Obesity is a complex public health issue, which requires a collaborative effort with local and state partners. In a state that suffers from one of the highest rates of obesity in the country, Eat Smart Move More is advocating for state and local policy changes necessary to support individuals in the adoption of lifelong healthy habits.

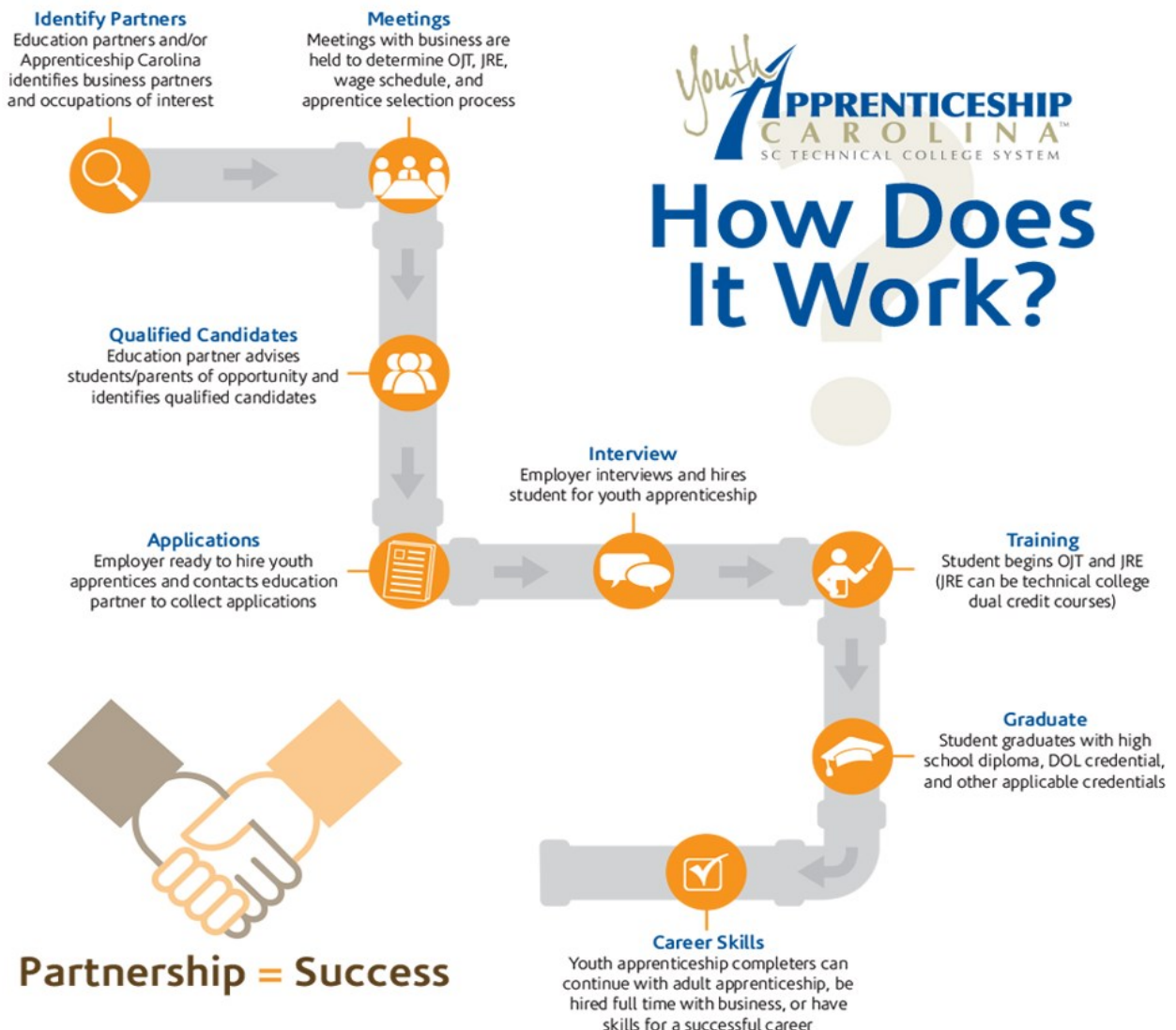
To learn more Visit:  
[eatsmartmovemore.org](http://eatsmartmovemore.org)

## Youth Apprenticeship Program



Youth Apprenticeship Carolina combines high school curriculum and career and technology training with critical on-the-job training performed at a local business. Students earn a paycheck through part-time work while earning a national credential in many high-demand occupations.

To learn more visit [www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com](http://www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com)





## Child Abuse Prevention Summit





## Child Abuse Prevention Summit



On April 22, the Office of the Solicitor held their Child Abuse Prevention Summit to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month. Thank you to the Price Center for hosting the event. Thank you to Solicitor Bill Weeks and Deputy Solicitor Ashley Hammack for leading the discussion on the impacts of abuse in our community, and, to all our panelists who shared their expertise.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of communities and families working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through this collaboration, prevention services and supports help protect children and produce thriving families.



## Healing Species





## Healing Species



On April 21, Juvenile Arbitration and Brothers and Sisters of Aiken County kicked-off the spring cycle of Healing Species. Healing Species is the only program in the world rescuing dogs of "last resort," dogs languishing at horrendous conditions. Healing Species provides rehabilitation services for these dogs at their sanctuary for adoption, or as ambassador classroom dogs for their award winning, nationally acclaimed, compassion education and violence intervention school and prison curriculum.

## SC Assess and Independence Network

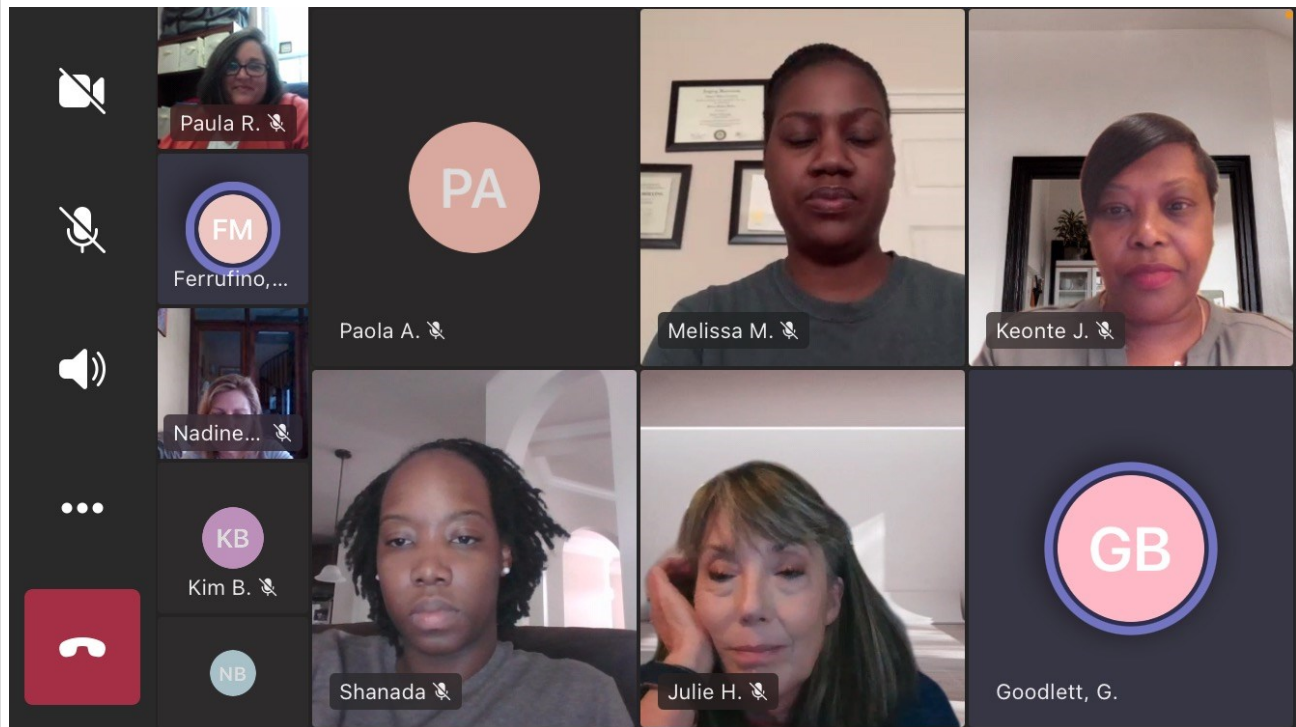


April 21 was the virtual Advocacy Day for Access and Independence. This day was first created as an initiative in the State Plan for Independent Living in 2014; since then, support has grown to 30 organizations statewide all unified in an effort to ensure people with disabilities have equal access and opportunity. People with disabilities face unnecessary and discriminatory barriers to transportation, employment, healthcare, and housing.





## Department of Social Services



On April 23, Nina Spinelli attended the Joint Planning Meeting hosted by the South Carolina Department of Social Service with community partners from across the state.

The goal of this year's planning meeting was to engage in meaningful discussions around the future of child welfare in South Carolina.

The mission of the agency is to service South Carolina by promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and to strengthen families.

One key takeaway was from a young man who is close to aging-out of foster care. When speaking about his experiences, he shared "I haven't been in one place long enough to unpack." His words gave all participants reasons to continue their work.

The Department also offers Community Based Prevention Services—free services offered by community organizations to families who are referred by the agency because of issues that are creating instability in the family.

Services are designed to help the family develop a plan for gaining strength and connection.



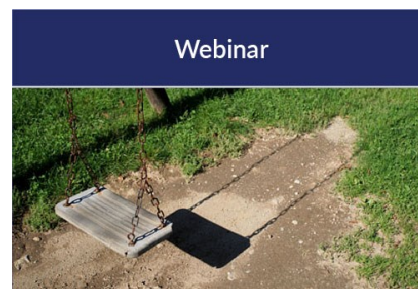


## Training Opportunity—May 26, 2021

On May 26, 2021 from 2:00—3:30 PM the National Criminal Justice Training Center is offering a webinar entitled “Into Their World: A Look at the Unique Behaviors and Strengths in those with Autism Spectrum Disorders.”

One in every 54 individuals has a diagnosis of autism, which encompasses a variety of signs, strengths, and safety concerns.

During this webinar, you will learn the basics of autism signs, statistics, and common characteristics of those diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Appreciate the unique strengths, sensitivities, similarities we all share, and looking beyond the label. Review an in-depth look at some of the primary safety concerns in individuals with autism, and strategies for prevention and response. To register, please visit: <https://ncjtc.fvvc.edu>



National Criminal Justice Training Center  
of Fox Valley Technical College

### Did You Know:

The recidivism rate for the Juvenile Arbitration Program for 2017-2018 (most current stats) has fallen to **4.1%** for the entire state.

For additional information, please visit: <https://djj.sc.gov/>

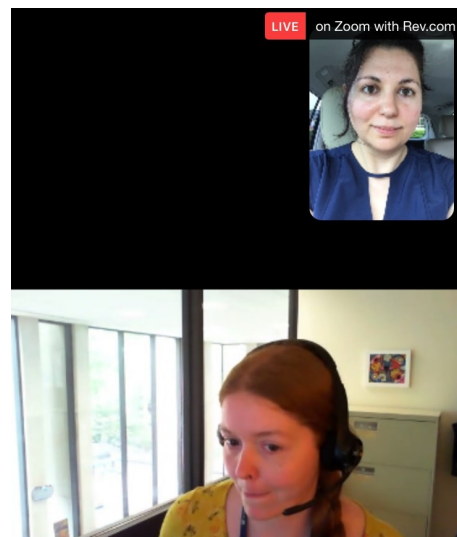
### Project READY

The Project READY Cohort led by the State Library and the South Carolina Center for Community Literacy wrapped-up their last session in April. The Project READY curriculum is the culmination of three years of work by a team of educators, library staff, and youth.

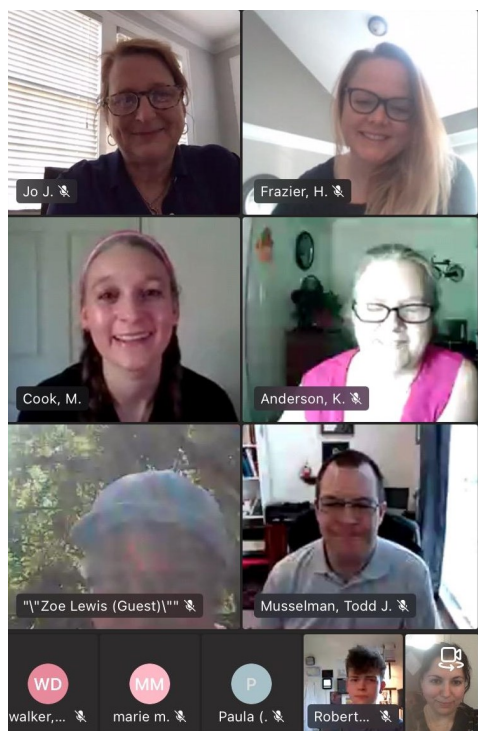
Project READY is a three-year program funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to create professional development focused on racial equity and culturally sustaining pedagogy.

For more information about the project, visit [www.projectready.web.unc.edu](http://www.projectready.web.unc.edu).

Nina Spinelli with Juvenile Arbitration was able to participate in this cohort.



## Home Fire Safety Challenge



Did you know that if a fire starts in your home **you may have as little as two minutes to escape?**

During a fire, early warning from a working smoke alarm plus a fire escape plan that has been practiced regularly can save lives.

About 300 people per year are killed and \$280 million in property is destroyed in fires attributed to children playing with fire. Just over half of child-playing fires in the home start in a bedroom, and bedding material is most often the first item ignited.

The American Red Cross has created a Fire Safety Challenge to help ensure homes are fire safety ready. Nina Spinelli is working to have youth in Arbitration participate and learn how to keep their homes safe.

## Child Abuse Prevention Summit



Thank you to both Tammy Fullwood, Adult Advocate with the South Carolina Department of Social Services, and Jennifer Haley, Executive Assistant with the Children's Trust of South Carolina for donating items to the Child Abuse Prevention Summit.

In 2017, there were 17,071 victims of abuse or neglect in South Carolina (per the CWLA).



**SECOND CIRCUIT  
JUVENILE  
ARBITRATION  
PROGRAM**

211 York Street, NE  
Aiken, SC 29801

2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit  
P.O. Drawer 3368  
Aiken, SC 29802  
[nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov)

Bill Weeks, Solicitor  
Serena McDaniel,  
Assistant Solicitor  
Nina Spinelli, Director

Calendar of Events

Writing Hour:

- May 13

Movie Night for Girls:

- May 15

Hopelands Gardens

Concert:

- June 7

Human Trafficking and

Internet Safety:

- June 23

Why be a Bully?:

- June 24

Healing Species:

- Wednesday  
Afternoons

## Child Abuse Prevention

To learn more about child abuse prevention, visit the websites of the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. Child Maltreatment 2019. For more information, visit [ncjtc.org/maltreatment2019](http://ncjtc.org/maltreatment2019)



in Federal fiscal year 2019, an estimated 1,840 children died due to abuse and neglect. From 2015 to 2019, there has been a 10.8 percent increase.

According to the Minnesota Public Libraries' Return on Investment, libraries have tremendous value as a gathering space.

This includes the phenomenon of the "living room" experience, meeting and conference rooms space, a safe and friendly environment, and a unique forum for social networking, book clubs and reading groups.



## Health Insurance Resource



An Initiative of Palmetto Project

Need health insurance? Former youth in foster care? Younger than 26? You qualify for Medicaid health insurance.

Regardless of marital status, income, or child dependents, former foster care youth qualify for insurance.

For more info: 1-888-998-4646 or [info@insure-sc.org](mailto:info@insure-sc.org)